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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

JUN 18 - 24, 2021

INK OCHI

ISSUE - 10

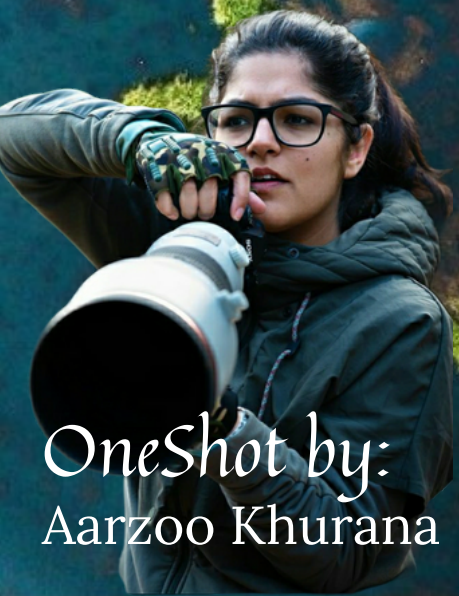
FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KERALA

Weekly collection

Pepples Art
By: Natasha Newton

Amazing to know
***
Art gallery

MANIPUR
Loktak Lake
Only floating lake in the world



OneShot by:
Aarzoo Khurana

Editor's Note

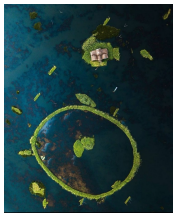
We let you experience other cultures

Cultural exchanges provide an opportunity to explore other cultures, traditions, customs, beliefs, societies and much more. Hence, such opportunities make you view the world with a different lens. This provides alternative perspectives! It broadens one's horizons and increases the tendency of acceptance.

By understanding differences from others, one tends to recognize one's own self. Cultural exchanges allow us to experience the exotic cultures, but at the same time, provide an opportunity to better understand our own cultures and traditions. Hence, these opportunities act as widows of self-awareness.

Diversity is beautiful. It is the pre-requisite of unity. Unity, instead of uniformity, creates tolerance, acceptance and flexibility. To attain unity, it is necessary to appreciate diversity. Cultural exchanges help us do just that. When one experiences other cultures, view the world with another lens, accept the "other", one understands the very essence of diversity which is the first step towards attaining unity.

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas



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FOR SALE

Code: INK153

Title:
The Solitary Dancer

Artist: Somendra Singh
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Surface: Canvas - Rolled
Size: 27x33 inches
Price: Rs.110000/-

Contact:
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8547107471

FOR SALE

Title:
Reflections

Code: INK154

Artist: Boaz M. Skaria
Medium: Watercolour
Surface: Art Paper - Rolled
Size: A3
Price: Rs.3000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE

Untitled

Code: INK155

Artist: Sara Hussain
Medium: Ink
Surface: Canson paper 130gsm - Rolled
Size: A3
Price: Rs.2500/-

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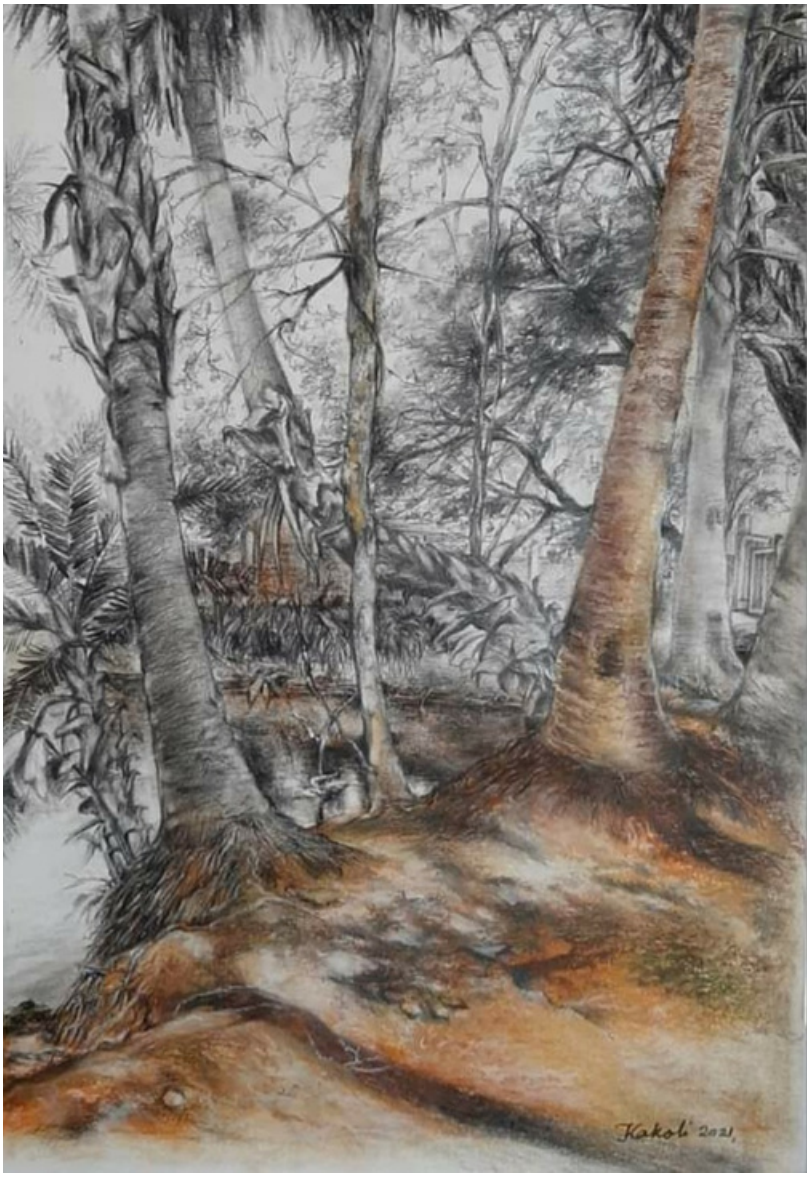
FOR SALE



Title:
Nature On Spot

Code: INK156

Artist: Kakoli Chattopadhyay
Medium: Mixed Media
Surface: Acid free handmade paper, 110 gsm
Size: 29.7x42 cms - Rolled
Price: Rs.10000/-

Contact:
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Natasha Newton's

Charming Pebble Paintings Turn Found Beach Stones Into Handheld Art

By: Thomas Chapman

British artist and illustrator Natasha Newton uses found beach pebbles, sea glass, and fragments of pottery as her canvas. Sourced from the coastal town of Suffolk, England, the artist strives to give the natural objects “another life as a treasured work of art” by turning them into stone paintings. With a deep love for nature, Newton hand-paints trees, leaves, animals, and more onto their smooth surfaces. **>>>**

Pepple Art

"One of my favorite pastimes is beach combing along the Suffolk coast, and I can't go too long without a trip to the beach," Newton confesses on her website. Fascinated by the stories of each stone or piece of slate, the artist reflects on their "past life" and how they've been "beautifully tumbled by the waves and the passage of time." Having washed up on the shoreline, Newton selects the best pieces to adorn with her illustrations, using a monochrome palette of acrylic paint.

Each pebble painting features minimalist, black and white motifs; a distinctive style that's developed from Newton's portfolio of landscape paintings and illustrations. Using a tiny paintbrush, the talented artist is able to add charming details to each piece, such as thin tree branches, or delicate, wispy feathers. Evoking "a magical stillness found during the autumn and winter seasons," each stone is a calming, handheld work of art. **>>>**

Pepple Art

My work is inspired by nature, home, and the landscape of the UK. I love exploring the countryside and I find that the Surrey Hills, where I currently live and work, frequently inspires my paintings. I'm also influenced by the landscape and coastline of Suffolk, where I was born, and the beautiful North of England.

I use acrylic on canvas, or watercolour, gouache and mixed media on paper to create my paintings. They tend to have a strong folk art quality, evoking feelings of nostalgia and comfort. I prefer to work slowly and intentionally, taking time to enjoy the process of creating art and allowing the pieces to evolve at their own pace, building layers of colour, texture and detail over several hours or days. **<>**

Travel

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EST. 2021
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BEEF
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CHICKEN
PORK
PINEAPPLE
SWEETLIME
GARLIC
QUAIL EGG

NUT BUTTER
(200 GM)
PEANUT BUTTER
CREAMY
CHUNKY

JUICE CONCENTRATE
(500 ML)
GINGERLIME
GOOSEBERRY LIME

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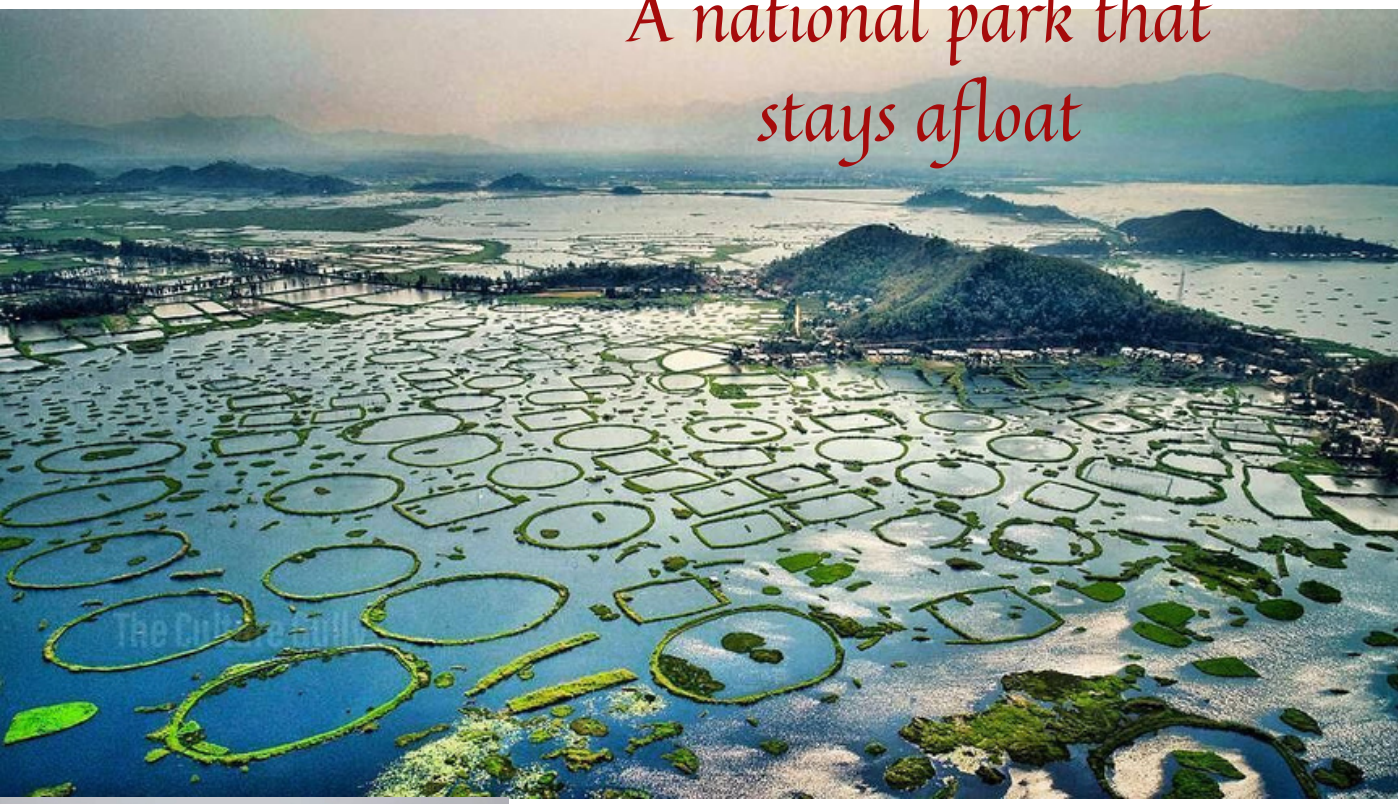
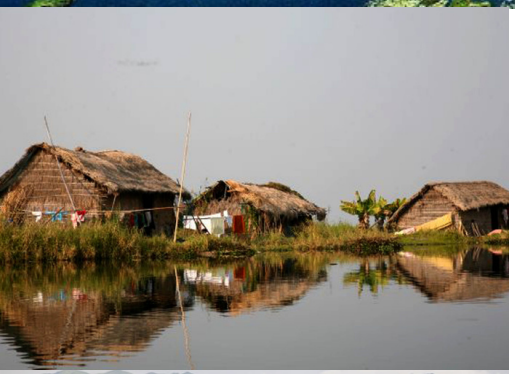
Loktak lake
The floating wonder in Manipur
A national park that stays afloat

Text & Photos: Mrinal K. Sen





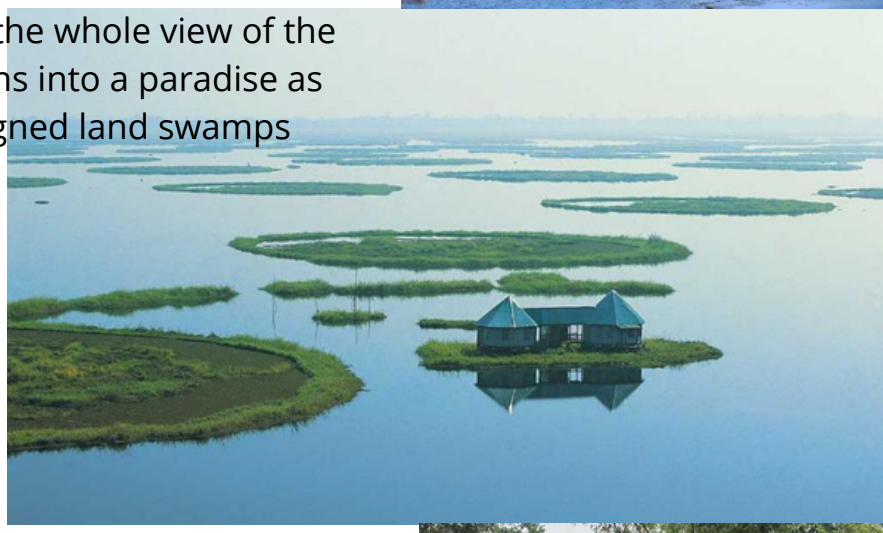
Being the largest fresh water lake in north-east India, Loktak lake is like an entire ecosystem in itself with a rich varied collection of flora and fauna.

In the north-eastern state of Manipur, lies the freshwater floating lake called the Loktak lake. Located in Bishnupur district, approximately 53 kms from Imphal city, this lake is an integral part of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, world's only floating national park. Known for its picturesque floating swamps of land, it is a beautiful stretch of water resembling miniature islands. **>>>**

Floating Wonder

Locally called phumdis (islets), the lake is full of such circular swamps of land pieces which grab the attention. These are naturally formed pieces of land comprising of a miscellaneous collection of soil, vegetation and decomposing organic matter. These take form when the foliage floating in the water piles up together over the course of many years.

Inhabited by the fishermen, the whole view of the freshwater national park turns into a paradise as soon as the sun sets. The aligned land swamps and the phumsangs (the huts on the phumdis) floating on the lake surrounded with the vivid scenes of birds under the vast empty sky, turns the place into a radiant scintillating and beaming legacy of the sun.



An ecosystem covering almost 240 sq km area, these phumdis are the lifeline of many people. They are a source of irrigation, drinking water and hydropower generation, other than fishing which is the major source of income for the people. The phumdis stay right below the lake almost like green icebergs, allowing the roots to reach the lakebed in dry weather. As monsoon arrives, the roots absorb water and then rise upto two metres, forming a safe base for the houses made on it. **>>**

Floating Wonder

An integral part of the Keimbul Park, it was initially declared as a sanctuary in October 1953 mainly to save the extinction of Sangai deer, a Manipuri brow-antlered deer habituated to walk around the phumdis in Loktak. In July 1954, hunting was allowed other than the part where the Sangai deer resided. The park was officially notified as a sanctuary in 1966 and nearly a decade later, in 1977 it was notified as a national park.

With the population of almost 100,000, Loktak lake also happens to have the first floating school in India called the Loktak Elementary Floating school. The school was inaugurated in 2017 providing elementary education from classes' I-III.

The lake is a birder's paradise, having sights of birds like the Burmese pied myna, east Himalayan pied Kingfisher, the northern hill myna, etc. It serves as a home to almost 233 species of aquatic plants, almost 100 species of birds and approximately 425 species of animals. However, the lake is in dire circumstances due to the numerous threats due of pollution, declining diversity and the construction of Ithai Hydropower Dam in the 1980's. The land gradually kept changing and the water level started remaining high all year round, resulting in thinning of the swamps.

It is hoped that tourism can heavily change this scenario as it will bring Loktak the much emphasised attention and awareness. A documentary named Phum Sang, made by Hao bam Pawan Kumar examines the serious environmental challenges it is facing and also won the Golden Conch award for best documentary in Mumbai International Film Festival in 2014. Acknowledged by UNESCO in its tentative list of World Heritage sites, the Loktak lake is a blend of rich bio-diversity with the delightful landscape making it a must visit for any travel enthusiast. **<>**

STARTING NEW SERIES

OneWeek OneShot

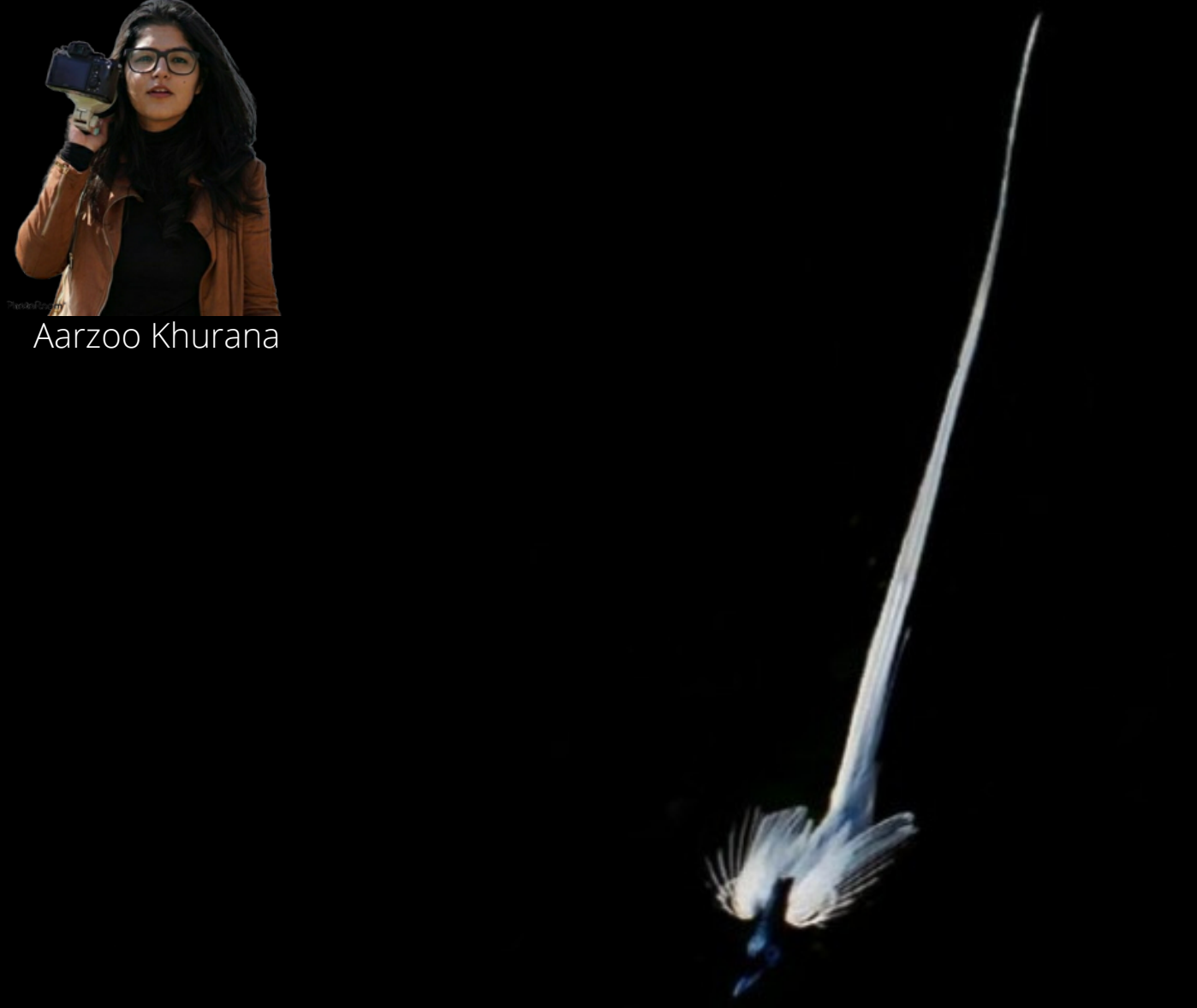
By: Aarzoo Khurana

Exquisite Amid the Extraordinary

Aarzoo Khurana, an LLB Degree holder, is a Nature & Wildlife Photographer, Sony Alfa Brand Ambassador and mentor. She strives to find beauty in the elements of nature and paint through the lens colours of nature in all their splendour. Her photos are a dance of light and shadows portraying some of the most engaging moments one might witness in the wild.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Aarzoo Khurana



Cruising in the dark
Asian Paradise Flycatcher
Corbett, Uttarakhand

OneShot

AMAZING TO KNOW

Fortress of Our Lady of Grace, Portugal.
Originally called the fortress of Count Lippe, named after a Englishman Guillermo de Schaumburg-Lippe who reorganized the Portuguese army, and who ordered it to be raised in 1763 when he saw the strategic importance of the area.

Contribution: Peter Suez

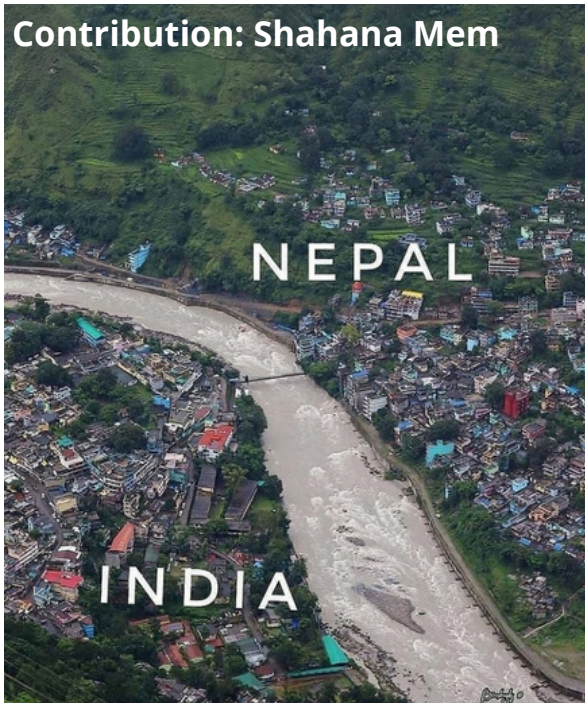
13th Century Roman Catholic Bishops Helmet

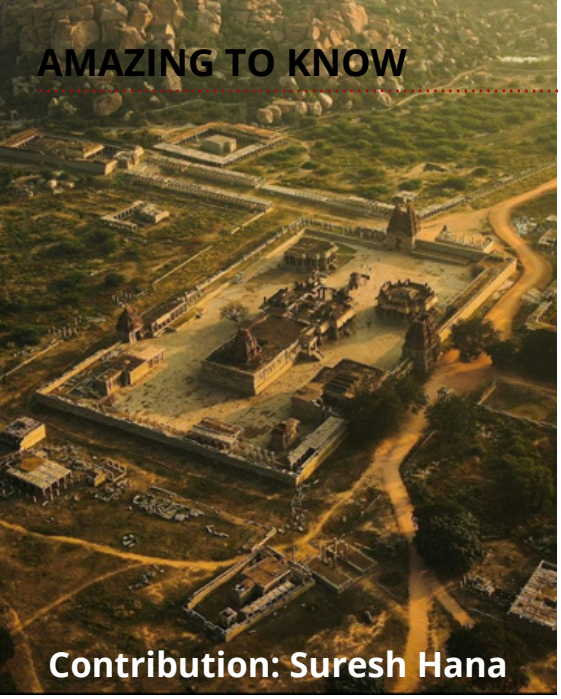
Contribution: Peter Suez

Amazing to know

The river **Mahakali** is the natural border between Nepal and India in Dharchula, Uttarakhand.

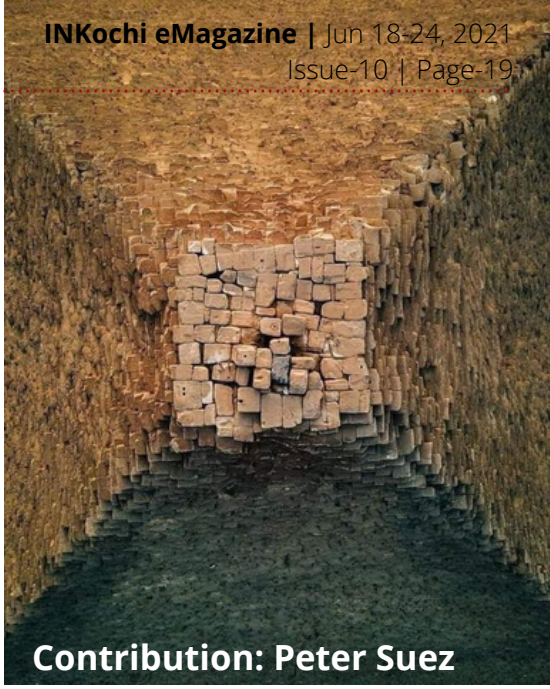
Dharchula is situated on the bank of river Mahakali which originates from a place called Kalapani , as it separates and forms the border between India and Nepal. The area has a mixture of Kumaouni and Rung language, traditions, and culture.





Contribution: Suresh Hana

Mystical Vitthala Temple
Hampi, Karnataka



Contribution: Peter Suez

Top of the Great Pyramid
of Giza

Built in 1498, **Adalaj Ni Vav** is a classic illustration of Maru-Gurjara architecture that originated in Gujarat and Rajasthan from the 11th - 13th centuries, under the Chalukya dynasty (or Solanki dynasty). The building material used is golden sandstone and the design of the stepwell is as ornate as those of Hindu and Jain temples with high plinths, decorative pillars, friezes, figurative carvings and domical roofs resembling timber carvings.

Contribution: Nilesh Narayan

The complex of Adalaj Ni Vav also served as a tavern or inn for travellers and locals who would congregate to converse or worship the deities located inside the stepwell.

Amazing to know

Contribution: Zacaria Shah

I have simply fallen in love with Mathura and Brindavan post my visit there. The culture here rivals Shahjahanabad, the street food and breakfast is exceptional inspite of having no ginger or garlic , and the people so warm that one can spend hours taking to them.

One interesting aspect of the place is the phrase "Radhe Radhe" which is the go-to greeting of everyone here (obviously with the massive heritage and history related to Lord Krishna). Radhe Radhe ,not only finds itself on everyone s lips but also can be found painted on the walls everywhere.

Amazing to know

The e rickshaw wala who drove me around in Vrindavan had Radhe Radhe constantly on his lips while he zoomed on the narrow streets of the place. The tone and modulation of the phrase changed depending on the traffic ahead of him being smooth or stuck. But Radhe Radhe remained perennially.

Suddenly a guy on a bike cut across him causing him to brake suddenly. The biker and my driver exchanged angry glances. I was almost sure he would abuse now. But he breaks out :

" Arey Radhe ... Kya karke maanoge Radhe"

And off he went again ,unperturbed and happy

Kya karke maanoge Hindustan

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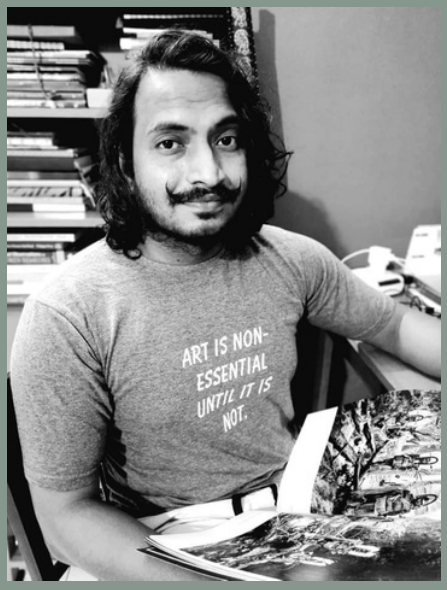
POEM

Madhu Raghavendra



MADHU RAGHAVENDRA (poet and curator) has authored three books of poetry: *Make Me Some Love To Eat, Stick No Bills, and Being Non-essential*. He is the founder of Poetry Couture, a movement that has created free spaces for poetry in India. He uses poetry as a tool to advocate human and environmental rights. He collaborates with global artists to create multidisciplinary poetry experiences. This poem has spoken to artists over a dozen countries and made into many music compositions.

Artist :

I don't mind
being the non-essential.

Even a child takes
its mother for granted.
It does not run back
to its mother until it's hurt.

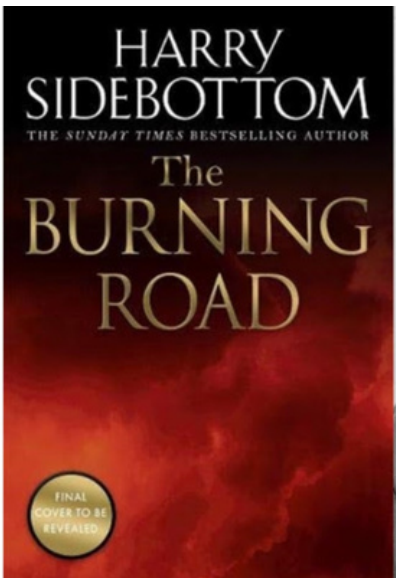
Nobody first thinks of water
when they arrive
at an exquisite dinner party,
until they are choking.

I don't mind
being the non-essential
knowing you will come looking
when things are broken
and nothing else works.

Art is non-essential
Until it is not.

Review

By: Topping & Company Booksellers, Ely, UK.



By: Tejaswi Prasad

It is, fundamentally, a very sad book. Sad is too simplistic a word – this book aches, almost every page of it, not just with sorrow but with a distinct sort of self-loathing rooted in disgust. The emotion permeates each line, regardless of whether or not it's addressing it directly; it is a convincing depiction of the way unhappiness can seep into one's very worldview.

Shamal Days is a personal drama that takes place against the backdrop of larger world events. It is about politics, of both the international and office varieties (petty, messy, and unfortunately consequential). It is about sex (illicit). It is about immigrant life in the Gulf (Malayali.) Most of all, it is about Abbas, our protagonist with a finger in all of these pies. The novel jumps back and forth between different periods in Abbas' life, distinguishable largely by which newspaper he works at and the degree of his unhappiness.

AD265 – In the shadow of Mount Etna, slaves are rising up. As the rebel leader declares Sicily the new land of the free, men and women are slaughtered, and cities across the island are sacked and burned. When a ship is wrecked off the island's west coast, all but two survivors are cut down in the surf by the rebel slaves. Ballista, an experienced Roman soldier, has always found a way to survive against the odds – but his son Marcus is still just a boy. With The Burning Road stretching out ahead of them, father and son must cross the war-ravaged island in a race against time to save the rest of his family, and somehow find a way to extinguish the brutal rebellion, before it all goes up in flames.

Thidambu Nritham

A ritual dance performed by carrying the thidambu (replica of the deity) of Gods and Goddesses on the heads. Prevalent in places north of Korapuzha (Kora River) in Kozhikode, thidambu nritham will be performed by Namboothiri (priest). While dancing, the performer will carry decorated with flowers and ornaments, the idols are placed on the heads.

The performer has to undergoe proper training which will begins with guruvandanam, pulimutti is received and the rhythm is practiced and then the dance steps. While practicing body movements, different types of oil and ghee are applied on the body and massaged. Those with flexible movements and rhythm can perform Thidambu Nritham rigorously.

The performance, as in tradition, is staged with the accompaniment of vilakku (traditional oil lamp) held by Warrier community and the percussion instrument played by the Marars. The dancers wear white dresses with folds (pleat). A special headgear known as 'ushnipeetam' is worn and the Thidambu is placed on top of it.

Chenda, valanthala, ilathalam, kuzhal and sanku are the other musical instruments accompanying the performance. Four talas (rhythm) are used such as Thakhiladi, adantha, champada and panchari. Each rythm ends with a finale and the next begins. And, gradually the dance becomes fast-paced. In some Thidambu Nritham, one to five Thidambus are used.

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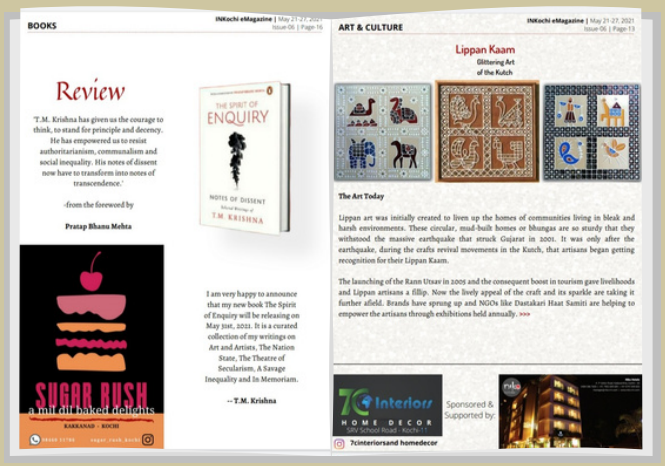
BOOKS
Review
THE SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY
NOTES OF DISSENT
T.M. KRISHNA
Pratap Bhanu Mehta
SUGAR RUSH
a mid-fall baked delights
I am very happy to announce that my new book The Spirit of Enquiry will be releasing on May 31st, 2021. It is a curated collection of my writings on Art and Artists, The Nation State, The Theatre of Secularism, A Savage Inequality and In Memoriam.
-- T.M. Krishna
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